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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Illinois
State
Police

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Larry G. Trent, Director
Doug W. Brown, First Deputy Director

WHAT IS THE AMBER ALERT NOTIFICATION PLAN

Public Act 92-0259 mandated the Illinois State Police (ISP) develop and implement, by January 1, 2002, a coordinated program for a statewide emergency alert when a child is reported endangered. As a result of Public Act 92-0259 and in cooperation with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, and the Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children, a statewide "AMBER Alert Notification Plan" was developed. The goal was to create a "workable" AMBER plan applicable to and implemented by any city (including towns and villages), county, or state law enforcement agency in Illinois and amiable to radio and television broadcasting companies. The "AMBER alert" quickly informs the public of specific information regarding the abduction of a child whose life may be in danger.



HOW DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVATE AN AMBER ALERT IN ILLINOIS

1. Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted. The child must be under the age of 16 or have a proven mental or physical disability. Law enforcement must believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death. And, there is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.
2. The law enforcement agency investigating the endangered missing child case contacts the ISP, supplying information on the case. The ISP initiates the Illinois AMBER Alert Plan by notifying broadcasters through the activation of the Emergency Alert System by the National Weather Service. The Illinois Department of Transportation posts abduction information on electronic message boards along the state's highways.
3. Broadcasters immediately supply the listening public information on the endangered missing child.

WHAT TO DO WHEN AN AMBER ALERT IS ENACTED

The AMBER Alert message encourages the public to look for the missing child or suspect. You become the ears and eyes of the local law enforcement.

In the event that you spot a child, adult, or vehicle fitting the AMBER Alert description, immediately call 9-1-1 or the telephone number given in the AMBER Alert and provide authorities with as much information as you know.



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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHILD IS MISSING

1. Immediately contact your local law enforcement agency and initiate a report. Provide them with a photo and information you maintain on your child. Be complete and honest with them, including any problems at home that may be associated with your child's absence. Ask for a copy of the report, and make note of who is taking the initial report. Ask for the name of the officer investigating the case, and check back to determine the status of the case.
2. Be sure your child is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and state level computer system. If the local agency will not enter your child, contact the nearest office of the FBI, who must enter the child according to the Federal Missing Children Act (Public Law 97-292).
3. If you feel the law enforcement agency handling your case is not being responsive, contact the chief, sheriff, or director of the agency and seek relief. If you still feel your case is not being addressed, contact the State's or District Attorney's Office, higher level law enforcement authorities, or appropriate elected or appointed governmental officials who can look into the matter.
4. Be cautious if you decide to use private detectives or other for profit organizations to help you find your child. **Check references!** Ask for names of others they helped, check their credentials with law enforcement and state regulatory agencies, the Attorney General's Office (Consumer Fraud Division) as well as the Better Business Bureau.
5. Do seek the help of reputable support groups who can assist you.
6. Keep someone by your telephone at all times, and keep a log of phone calls and other information regarding the case.
7. Get as much publicity as you can. Contact the media and request assistance in publicizing the case. Also, many private corporations may help in displaying photos of your child on their products.



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8. Circulate posters with your child's photo and information about the case using the investigative law enforcement agency or support group as the contact.
9. Contact all your friends, relatives, and neighbors to determine if they have any information on the whereabouts of your child or if they can be of assistance in a search or follow-up activities.
10. Talk to the friends of your children, but do not threaten them. Calmly explain how worried you are, and that your only concern is your children are safe and they come home. Often friends can provide important information for the investigation.
11. Consider offering a reward for information that would help locate your child.
12. Determine if your town or state has special programs for handling missing children cases. Seek their involvement and assistance.
13. Secure your child's dental records and have the investigating law enforcement agency enter them into NCIC. This will aid in the recovery process.
14. Contact the Illinois State Police Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children (800-843-5763) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (800-843-5678) for assistance.

Information regarding an active Illinois AMBER Alert will be posted on the ISP website at:

www.isp.state.il.us



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